

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01 /083 W

----- 122248

R 241506Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3818

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SA, EG

SUBJECT: SADAT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

1. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST STAGE OF PRES. SADAT'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, FONMIN PRINCE SAUD BIN FAISAL MADE A TELEVISED STATEMENT THAT BOTH PARTIES WERE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE MOMENTUM TOWARDS A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. PRINCE SAUD STATED THAT A STALEMATE IN THE EFFORT TO SOLVE THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IS UNACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. HE SAID THAT PROGRESS IN THIS AREA AND THE SAHARA DEPENDED ON UNITY AND COORDINATION AMONG THE ARAB STATES.

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2. ALL NEWSPAPERS ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A SAUDI-EGYPTIAN JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY PRES. SADAT

AND KING KHALID.

3. WHILE MEDIA COVERAGE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE UP TO NOW, IT HAS NOT BEEN INFORMATIVE ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS. ONE NEWSPAPER (AL-MADINA) FRONTPAGED FEB 23 A STORY FROM A LEBANESE NEWSPAPER THAT SAID THAT "USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCES IN RIYADH" REVEALED A SAG DECISION TO LEND \$1 BILLION TO THE GOE. \$700 MILLION OF THIS LOAN WOULD BE EARMARKED FOR EGYPTIAN ARMS PURCHASES FROM THE US AND \$300 MILLION TO ALLEVIATE THE GOE'S CURRENT FINANCIAL WOES.

4. WITH BOTH PARTIES SPENDING THE NEXT TWO DAYS AT THE KING'S ENCAMPMENT IN THE NORTHERN DESERT, PRESS COVERAGE IS EXPECTED TO DIE DOWN.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE OFFICIAL SEGMENT OF THE VISIT ENDED AT THE PARTIES' DEPARTURE FROM RIYADH, THE PRESENCE OF CP FAHD, SAUDI NAT'L GUARD COMMANDER PRINCE ABDALLAH AND OTHER HIGH RANKING SAUDIS IN THE DESERT INDICATES THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE IN THE DESERT SETTING. THE EMBASSY EXPECTS THAT THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE (IF ONE IS ISSUED) AND PRESS STATEMENTS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT WILL SHED MORE LIGHT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE VISIT BUT EVEN THEN MORE IS LIKELY TO BE LEFT UNSAID THAN REVEALED.
HORAN

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